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land. It would not be a very opportune time, to be sure, to become involved in war with both England and Germany.

Again, regarding the "war zone." Is it not also against international law to declare an ineffective blockade? At the beginning, the English blockade was not even a declared blockade, and is certainly ineffective. But that is passed over quite lightly by our pro-British editors.

We will admit that the case against Germany involves the loss of human lives, American human lives.

It seems to me that a good way for us to put ourselves in the right would be to safeguard *German* and other lives in Mexico. Do we not hold ourselves responsible for as much when we base our attitude in all matters concerning this continent on the Monroe Doctrine?

I was amazed to learn that so many *American* lives were lost in Mexico. The American press seems to have passed over this fact very lightly. Our self-righteousness in the case against Germany, all things considered, takes on a rather amusing aspect, despite the "cause of humanity."

"*Deutschland über Alles*," is, of course, merely the German equivalent to our "America First." Hence the controversy.

Shall we declare war on Mexico, England and Germany? Why should we alone—Mexico apparently being past consideration—be "pig-headed"? Can *we* not arbitrate? The German Emperor stated that French aviators had dropped bombs on German cities before he declared war. We criticized him for plunging into war for such a reason, and a few others. Then why should we? Will it bring back the dead?

We may say, or at least hope, that "*never* so long as patriotic spirit animates American beings shall this free Republic be found guilty before God and history of violation of those principles of highest humanity which are the foundations of every national existence and of all civilization," but can we say, *never* has it been guilty? Then why set ourselves upon a pedestal, breaking our own laws, failing to fulfill our own obligations, and condemning a nation with the fiercest denunciations, which is, after all, one against many?

Does anybody think that Belgium would have resisted Germany if it had not depended on England and France, if it had not, in fact, very likely had an understanding with these two nations? Why ignore all the data from various sources which seem to prove this? Oh, because we are pro-British.

I believe the editor has, at least, given us the most ironically masterful misinterpretation of the German note extant.

(MISS) J. MANDERY.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

### WAR WITH DIGNITY

SIR,—I can't refrain from a word of commendation for "America First," your last editorial broadside. I read it twice, every word and slowly, and it is the most forceful and unanswerable presentation of the present situation. How any self-respecting citizen of this "land of the free" can look at it differently I cannot imagine. I have heard the German arguments from German sympathizers:

1. Germany had declared a war zone. Yes, but by what right, except by an effectual blockade?

2. Germany had warned passengers of the *Lusitania*. Yes, warned them not to do what they had a clear right to do.

3. England is to blame, so two wrongs make a right.

4. International law is obsolete. Yes, so Germany can write it as suits her pleasure, convenience, or needs for logical explanation. It is the logic of might makes right, that military necessity knows no law.

We have been deliberately slapped in the face by Germany and she is laughing in her sleeve. War with dignity is better than peace with disgrace. That is the way the country feels.

MAX L. POWELL.

BURLINGTON, VT.

### "BLUNTLY INSINUATING"

SIR,—After reading your article in THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW for August, "America First," it seems an imperative duty that I should say, in plain English, you ought to be ashamed of yourself.

You have not quite the courage to say, "if President Wilson doesn't do as I wish, he is no good"—you have not the courage to say quite frankly that the United States must declare war on Germany at any cost—never once do you *dare* say we must go to war; yet, if I understand you, every line breathes this vicious sentiment.

Presupposing that Germany has done everything which you contend she has done—taking the situation just as you think it stands, still your article is contemptible because it *insinuates*—bluntly, it is true—but still *insinuates*, whereas if our country is in the dire straits which you see, it is quite time to be frank. Don't give us any more literary efforts or effusions, but come out for your country in plain English words. Round off your sentences with that frightful word *War*, when you mean War, and don't nicely dodge.

Then we will forgive you whatever side you are on.

Yours none too respectfully,

MRS. FRANZ MILCKE.

WALLINGFORD, CONN.

### BEYOND THE AID OF MAPS

SIR,—What is this new kingdom, "America," about which you make such a fuss with exclamation marks in the August number of the REVIEW? I was born of citizen parents in Maine some time ago; we emigrated first to Massachusetts, then to New Hampshire. I have not traveled very widely in the States, but I have read much concerning them. Never, except in sordid advertisements, have I seen mention of this state (or kingdom) "America." Your flamboyant editorial, "America First!" is not explicative. May I expect from you (or through the REVIEW) an answer to my question: What and where is "America?"

Maps with the text would help, no doubt. If no explicit answer can be given, I should be pleased to entertain the broadest hint you can convey in verse or prose.

I do hope this state or kingdom, "America," is not now like the Prussia of near-mythology which lately emerged in history, most disastrously for the race.

GORDON PINGREE.